#63-1,53

38TH CONGRESS, 1st Session. | SENATE. | Ex. Doc. No. 56.

MESSAGE

OF

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

In answer to a resolution of the Senate of the 6th of June, information in regard to the African slave trade.

JULY 2, 1864.—Read, ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

To the Senate of the United States:

In answer to the resolution of the Senate of the 6th ultimo, requesting information upon the subject of the African slave trade, I transmit a report from the Secretary of State, and the papers by which it was accompanied.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

WASHINGTON, *July* 2, 1864.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 2, 1864.

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of the 6th ultimo, requesting the President, "if not incompatible with the public interests, to communicate to the Senate any information that may have been recently received in regard to the condition of the African slave trade and measures for its suppression in the island of Cuba," has the honor to lay before the President a copy of the documents specified in the accompanying list.

Respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The PRESIDENT *of the United States.*

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NOTE.—Further information connected with the subject of this report may be found in Ex. Doc. No. 7, House of Representatives, 36th Congress, 2d session, containing a report from the Secretary of State in reference to the African slave trade; in the published diplomatic correspondence for 1862, pp. 64, 82, 141, 158, 164, 181, 185, 285, 289, 473, 509; in that for 1863, pp. 276, 413, 444; in Senate Ex. Doc. No. 48, 38th Congress, 1st session, relative to the delivery of a person charged with crime against Spain to the officers of that government; in a report of the Secretary of State to the Senate, dated June 18, 1864, in continuation of that subject; and in a letter of this department to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, dated June 24, 1864, upon the subject of the extradition of criminals, a copy of which was communicated, on the same date, to the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States Senate.

Mr. Shufeldt to Mr. Seward.

No. 45.] CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Havana, July 5, 1861.

SIR: I have to inform you that the American bark Reindeer, of New York, Captain W. H. Cunningham, cleared from this consulate on the 27th ultimo for Falmouth, England, with sugar, but, as I afterwards ascertained, she cleared from the custom-house for San Antonio, Cape de Verdes and a market.

I have good reason to believe that this vessel has gone to the coast of Africa for negroes, and I respectfully suggest that the United States district attorney for the southern district of New York be informed of the fact, in order that he may take such steps in that city as will fix the responsibility of this act, if possible, upon the owner of the vessel who resides there.

The American brig Storm King, formerly of Baltimore, has recently landed 650 Africans near Sagua la Grande, and was subsequently destroyed at sea. Part of her crew were arrested in Cardenas and brought to this city, where they are now in jail. I have examined the captain, and am satisfied of the justice of their arrest, (though they claim to be shipwrecked seamen.) In this opinion the consul at Cardenas fully concurs, and I, therefore, shall take no steps to interfere with the course of the law of the island.

Owing to the absence of cruisers about the island, several cargoes have recently been landed, one of them within ten miles of Havana; and, as our men-of-war are now otherwise employed, I can submit no other means of preventing this abuse of the American flag than that of being empowered to refuse a clearance to any American vessel to any part of the coast of Africa from this or any port on the island of Cuba. There is no direct legal trade between these two countries, and vessels going from here to there can have no other object than to engage, either directly or indirectly, in the slave trade.

I am, sir, with respect, your obedient servant,

R. W. SHUFELDT,
Consul General.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington.

Mr. Savage to Mr. Seward.

No. 55.] CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
At Havana, September 6, 1861.

On the 3d instant the master (George C. Briggs) of the bark Culloma, of New York, applied to me for his ship's papers and a clearance. I had secret information that she was bound to the coast of Africa, to be engaged in the slave trade. On examining the Havana custom-house clearance and other papers thereto annexed, I found the permits for the cargo were all for Falmouth and a market, and yet the vessel was at the last moment cleared for St. Thomas; and the master furthermore informed me that he did not intend to go in her as master, and would turn the command over to his mate. I concluded to refuse a clearance, except upon the condition that he and the shipper of the cargo should consent to receive on board an officer and men of an American man-of-war, to take her to Key West, where the legal authorities of the United States would decide whether she could proceed on her voyage. They declined this propo-

sition, and the shipper, Don Manuel Martinez, who looked to me like a slave-trader, let out that her port of destination was San Thomé, a Portuguese settlement on the coast of Africa. I then again refused to clear the vessel. The next day the master, who had a power of attorney from the owners to sell her, executed a bill of sale, and the ship has been put under Mexican colors. I believe the sale was a *bona fide* one, for the master was glad, by my refusing to clear her, the charterer made up his mind to purchase the ship; so her register is cancelled.

May I take the liberty of asking the department if the instructions given by it on the 5th of May, 1860, to this consulate general, are to be considered as still in force. I beg leave also to refer to Mr. Helm's despatch of May 30, 1860, (No. 32,) and its enclosures.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

THOMAS SAVAGE,
Vice-Consul General.

Hon. WM. H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State of the United States, Washington.

Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Savage.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 17, 1861.

SIR: Your despatch (No. 55) has been received. Until otherwise instructed, you are to regard the instructions of the department of the 5th of May, 1860, as in force.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

THOMAS SAVAGE, Esq.,
United States Vice-Consul General, Havana.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Savage.

[Extract.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 30, 1861.

SIR: Your despatch of September 17 (No. 61) has been received.

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Instructions will be given to the marshal at New York to bring to punishment, if possible, the owners of the Tocoa.

Your vigilance and diligence are highly appreciated.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

THOMAS SAVAGE, Esq.,
United States Vice-Consul General, Havana.

Mr. Murray to Mr. Seward.

U. S. MARSHAL'S OFFICE, SOUTHERN DIST. OF NEW YORK.
New York, November 11, 1861.

SIR: I have reliable information that persons heretofore known to be engaged in fitting out vessels from the port of New York, to be employed in the slave trade, are now fitting out and loading vessels in this port with legitimate cargoes for Cadiz, where the notorious Mrs. James Watson (who was driven from this city three months since by three different charges of fitting out slavers) now resides, and is, I am reliably informed, there engaged in fitting these vessels out when they arrive there. Last week the bark Clarissa, the bark Virginia Ann, and the notorious brig Falmouth this week, sailed for Cadiz.

Having information in which I can place entire confidence, I respectfully ask that instructions be sent to our consul at Cadiz, directing him to refuse a clearance for these vessels; also that the same instructions be communicated to the consuls at all Mediterranean ports. The Falmouth was brought home here from the Congo river with a complete slave deck and all the necessary outfit for that unlawful traffic, about three months since, and bonded in the United States district court; hence I had to discharge her from custody.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

ROBERT MURRAY,
United States Marshal.

HON. WM. H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Eggleston.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 12, 1861.

SIR: The department has received information from the marshal of the United States at New York, that persons heretofore known to be engaged in fitting out vessels from that port, to be employed in the slave trade, are now engaged in loading vessels with legitimate cargoes for Cadiz, where Mrs. James Watson, against whom charges have been preferred of fitting out slavers from New York, is said to be residing.

Within a few days past, the barks Clarissa and Virginia Ann, and the notorious brig Falmouth, have sailed for Cadiz. The last named vessel was brought to New York from the Congo river with a complete slave deck and all the necessary outfit for that unlawful traffic.

Should either of these vessels touch at any port where you have consular jurisdiction, you are instructed to issue no paper by which either of the said vessels can obtain a clearance from the port; and you are further instructed to transmit their registers and other papers, should they be deposited with you, to the Secretary of the Treasury.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

EBENEZER EGGLESTON, Esq.,
United States Consul, Cadiz.

Same to A. S. York, United States consul at Zante.
Same to H. J. Sprague, United States consul at Gibraltar.
Same to G. W. Van Horne, United States consul at Marseilles.
Same to J. Morand, United States consul at Denia.
Same to S. Ladica, United States consul at Port Mahon.
Same to J. A. Little, United States consul at Barcelona.
Same to A. M. Hancock, United States consul at Malaga.
Same to P. Morand, United States consul at Valencia.
Same to M. Barcena, United States consul at Vigo.
Same to W. L. Giro, United States consul at Alicante.
Same to C. A. Munro, United States consul at Lisbon.
Same to T. K. King, United States consul at Oporto.
Same to J. Bing, United States consul at Smyrna.
Same to G. G. Baker, United States consul at Athens.
Same to C. W. Goddard, United States consul general at Constantinople.

Mr. Shufeldt to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL IN CUBA,
Havana, November 21, 1861.

SIR: * * * * * * *

Long experience has convinced me of the fallacy of the generally received notion that negro labor is indispensable to the proper development of tropical resources. The Panama railroad, through the most deadly region, was accomplished by white labor, after negro labor from Jamaica had been imported and failed. All of the railroads on the island of Cuba are built by Irishmen, who endure more exposure than the slaves on the plantations, and with less mortality. I also remember well when it was thought that a white man could not work upon the levee of New Orleans; now it is a rare thing to see a negro employed there. These are but few of the instances which have occurred to convince me that the absolute necessity of slave labor in a tropical country, as urged by political economists and the advocates of the institution, for the proper cultivation of the soil, is only the cold selfishness of the slave owner, and the heartless dread he has that, some future day, he may be compelled to work there himself, and thus no longer enjoy, in lazy repose, the fruits of other men's toil.

This fallacy should be exploded. Many honest men have been deceived by it into the support of the institution of slavery. * * * *

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect,

R. W. SHUFELDT.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Mr. Shufeldt to Mr. Seward.

No. 5.] UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL,
Havana, January 14, 1862.

SIR: I have to inform you, that about the 1st instant there were landed in the vicinity of Trinidad, on the south side of this island, 600 negroes, from Africa. In this transaction Mr. Zulueta, a merchant of Trinidad, was impli-

cated, and is now here under arrest; Mr. Mariano Borrell, uncle of the wife of Captain-General Serrano, is also supposed to be connected with this affair.

Another cargo, consisting of 150 Caffres, from east coast of Africa, was landed in the vicinity of Cardenas a few days since. These negroes were so unruly that *forty* of them were *shot* in their transportation inland.

In the absence of cruisers on the coast of Cuba, nothing prevents a flourishing condition of this trade—except the low price of negroes—worth at present about $600, in place of $1,000 each one year ago.

I am, sir, with respect,

R. W. SHUFELDT,
Consul General.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Shufeldt.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, January 23, 1862.

SIR: Your despatch of January 14 (No. 5) has been received.

The President has thus learned, with deep pain, the success of the slave-traders in introducing slaves into Cuba. That regret is only diminished by the fact that American citizens and vessels are no longer found among these enemies of mankind.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

R. W. SHUFELDT, Esq.,
United States Consul General, Havana.

Mr. Russell to Mr. Seward.

No. 3.] CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
At Trinidad de Cuba, February 1, 1862.

SIR: I received a communication from the consul general at Havana, of date the 24th ultimo, calling my attention to a rumor, that he said was rife in that city, that a cargo of African negroes had recently been landed on this coast, and, as he understood, not distant from this port.

My reply to that despatch, which I substantially repeat to you, was that a rumor of the same kind was prevalent here, and that the governor of this city, the alcalde mayor, and the commandant of marines, were implicated as *particeps criminis;* but that further than that, I had not been able to gather information. Nor could I learn, after much careful inquiry, of the sale of a single negro thus kidnapped.

I was fully aware that it was my duty, no less than my inclination, to communicate to you all useful facts that I might gather on that subject as the surest means of suppressing or crippling this most inhuman traffic, but I did not think it comported with my duty to occupy your valuable time with despatches on mere rumor.

But my attention being thus brought to this most important subject, it is proper to add my conviction that the traffic is most distressingly engaged in on this side of the island, exposing, as it does, a front exceeding 700 miles, with a mean width of little above 50 miles.

But there are so many keys or secret places for landing, and so many of the wealthiest and most influential citizens engaged in it, that it occurs to me as an

almost utter impossibility successfully to detect it and suppress it without a man-of-war being kept constantly cruising in those seas.

This is the very first rumor of the landing of contrabands on this part of the island since I assumed the duties of consul at Trinidad, and I have from the first and throughout been constantly on the alert.

If you will suggest to me your further pleasure or wish, other than is contained in our general instructions, as a course of policy for me to pursue hazardous as the effect to me personally cannot fail to be, I will not shrink from an endeavor to perform it.

I am, most truly, with considerations of the highest regard, your obedient servant,

WM. H. RUSSELL,
United States Consul.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Shufeldt to Mr. Seward.

No. 24.] CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AT HAVANA,
February 22, 1862.

SIR: There is strong reason to suspect that the bark Ocilla, which cleared yesterday ostensibly for Havre and went to sea this morning, will really proceed to the coast of Africa to engage in the slave trade.

Under the instructions of the department of May 5, 1860, reiterated on the 17th September, 1861, I had no authority to detain the vessel or her papers.

The Ocilla is owned in Mystic, (Connecticut,) her tonnage $367\frac{59}{95}$, commanded by Sidney Ashby, and owned by said master and others. The first mate, George B. Ashby, is a brother of the master.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

R. W. SHUFELDT,
Consul General.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington.

It is possible that the Ocilla may go to Havre, discharge a portion of her cargo there, and then proceed to Africa. It would therefore be advisable that the department should call the attention of our consul at Havre in time to the vessel.

R. W. S.

Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Shufeldt.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 7, 1862.

SIR: Your despatch No. 24 has been received, and a copy immediately transmitted to the United States consul at Havre, with an instruction upon the subject.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

R. W. SHUFELDT, Esq.,
United States Consul General, Havana.

Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Putnam.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 7, 1862.

SIR: I transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch (No. 24,) received from the United States consul general at Havana, respecting the bark Ocilla, which cleared on the 21st ultimo from that port ostensibly for Havre.

There is reason to believe that this vessel is bound for the coast of Africa for the purpose of engaging in the slave trade.

In the event of her arrival at Havre you are requested to be on the alert and ascertain, if possible, if such be her destination.

Should you find, on investigation, that the facts are such as to justify it, you will retain possession of the ship's papers until a bond be given in a sufficient penalty, by responsible parties, that the vessel shall not engage in the slave trade.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

J. O. PUTNAM, Esq.,
United States Consul, Havre.

Mr. Russell to Mr. Seward.

U. S. CONSULATE AT TRINIDAD DE CUBA,
October 15, 1862.

SIR: My attention has been repeatedly directed by *circulars* to the urgent necessity, or expectation of the government, that I would exercise my utmost vigilance in detecting, and, as far as in my power lies, bring to punishment, all who are engaged in the infamous traffic of African slaves.

This duty would be the most pleasing of my official acts if I had means to perform it; but situated as I am, a single unprotected individual, amidst the very people who carry it on, and constrained to transact most of my official business with the Spanish officials, who, if not engaged in it, for large bribes connive at it, what can I do to arrest it?

If it were known to those unfeeling monsters engaged in it, and who, it is supposed, derive from it enormous profits, my life would not be worth a brass pin if I was considered a spy or an informer.

I do not consider it prudent to send this communication by Havana for fear of espionage upon the mail, and I therefore send it in a sail vessel bound direct to New York.

I have reliable information that a large cargo of kidnapped Africans has been recently landed in this vicinity, and that others are shortly expected; but the character of the coast is such, dotted all along with keys or small islets, they can land them and have them off into the interior without my having the slightest knowledge of the fact until the deed is done.

A vigilant war steamer permitted to cruise on this coast, with such information as I might from time to time be enabled to give, would, I think, do much towards suppressing the traffic. But can one be spared at this time? I fear not.

What, then, shall I do? I am willing to incur any personal risk if you think it will conduce to any valuable end; but if you do not, it will only impair my general usefulness by giving publicity to these suggestions.

I will, of course, communicate this late and expected arrivals to the consul general at Havana, and signify my readiness to co-operate with him in any measure for its suppression.

I am, most truly, with considerations of my high regard, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. RUSSELL,
United States Consul.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington.

Mr. Russell to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

U. S. CONSULATE AT TRINIDAD DE CUBA,
November 21, 1862.

SIR: * * * * * * * *

On this side of the island we have not been troubled with confederate cruisers for more than a year, but we occasionally hear, after the deed is done, of the landing of a cargo of kidnapped Africans, but they are immediately run into the interior, and so speedily disposed of to the different planters that it is impossible to obtain accurate information, either as to the precise point of landing, the numbers, or the planters to whom they are sold.

The Spanish officials located here are openly charged that, influenced by enormous bribes, they connive at this most nefarious traffic; and but very recently the governor of this place was removed from office for the alleged cause of having taken a bribe to conceal the landing of some four or five hundred of those unfortunate people.

Now, sir, without power in the slightest degree to interfere officially in the suppression of this barbarous commerce, what must I do? The necessity of the government to keep engaged our vessels-of-war elsewhere prevent you from sending one to guard this coast, and without some such aid little can be done to prevent it.

But if you can by any suggestion render more effective my vigilance, or my earnest desire to aid in the philanthropic effort of all good men, to wipe out the stain on Christians for its long continuance, I will cheerfully encounter any labor or risk to perform what I acknowledge to be my duty.

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Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. RUSSELL,
United States Consul.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington City.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Welles.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 24, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for your information, a communication, dated the 15th of October, received from the United States consul at Trinidad de Cuba, in which he refers to the arrival in the island of slaves from

Africa, and makes some suggestions with a view to the suppression of the traffic. I will thank you to return the despatch.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Russell.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 24, 1862.

SIR: Your despatch dated October 15 has been received, and your course approved.

An extract has been sent to the minister of the United States at London, and the information which you have communicated has been made known to the Secretary of the Navy.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

W. H. RUSSELL, Esq.,
Consul of the United States, Trinidad de Cuba.

Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Russell.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 28, 1862.

SIR: Your despatch dated October 15 having been received and referred to the Navy Department, the Secretary states, in reply, that "the information which you have given has been communicated to Rear-Admiral Charles Wilkes, commanding the West India squadron."

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

W. H. RUSSELL, Esq.,
Consul of the United States, Trinidad de Cuba.

Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Russell.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 9, 1862.

SIR: Your despatch, not numbered, dated November 21, has been received.

The department has no instructions to give you on the subject of the slave trade, to which you call its attention. Under the existing circumstances, your course will be simply to report to the department such facts in regard to it as come to your knowledge.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

W. H. RUSSELL, Esq.,
Consul of the United States, Trinidad de Cuba.

Mr. Shufeldt to Mr. Seward.

No. 117.] CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Havana, December 11, 1862.

SIR: In my despatch No. 24, of 22d of February, 1862, I called your attention to the bark Ocilla, of Mystic, Connecticut, which cleared at this port for Havre, and suspected of being intended for the slave trade. My suspicions, I have good reason to believe, have been fully realized. She landed a cargo of African negroes, a few days since, near Bahia Honda, in this island, and her crew found their way to Havana. I have endeavored to find the men, as yet without success. Having understood that one of them was willing to furnish me a statement of the facts, and that he was lying ill at Dr. Belot's hospital, I sent my clerk, Mr. Woolcott, immediately to see him, when it was ascertained that he died on the 6th instant, at 2 p. m. This man's name was John Powers. He reported himself at the hospital as a seaman shipped at Havre upon the American ship Ocilla, and that his place of residence was Philadelphia, where he had his wife and child.

Sidney Ashby, who was a part owner, and a master of the Ocilla at the time she left this port, is now here, and in command of a small schooner called Princeton, of Key West, which is for sale. He says that he sold the Ocilla at Havre; does not remember the name of the purchaser, and that both he and the mate, his brother George B. Ashby, left her at that port. Mark Chauncey, of Philadelphia, was the master on the voyage to Africa. This man has been engaged in the trade before, and served out a sentence in the prisons in this city, and in the Isle of Pines, when General Concha was governor general of Cuba. A Spanish captain brought the ship to Cuba. Chauncey was left ill on the coast of Africa.

This confirmation of my original suspicions in regard to this vessel induces me to suggest to you again the propriety of some action (legislation, if necessary) which would at least have a tendency to embarrass the traffic under the American flag.

It occurs to me that our consuls in Cuba should be empowered to refuse a clearance to any vessel which they have good reason to believe to be bound to the coast of Africa. No legitimate commerce would suffer from such proceeding, as the only trade which exists, or can exist, between this island and the coast of Africa is more or less connected with the slave trade.

I also take occasion to repeat that the inhuman traffic was never more prosperous than at the present time. Over two thousand negroes have been landed on the north side of Cuba within a month.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

R. W. SHUFELDT,
Consul General.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington.

Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Shufeldt.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 27, 1862.

SIR: Your despatch No. 117 has been received. The attention of the Solicitor of the Treasury and of the Secretary of the Navy has been called to the

subject of your despatch, with a view to the proper remedy to prevent the abuse of our flag in the slave trade.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

R. W. SHUFELDT, Esq.,
Consul of the United States, Havana.

Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Jordan.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 27, 1862.

SIR: I transmit herewith an extract from a despatch (No. 117) from the United States consul general at Havana upon the subject of the slave trade in connexion with the bark Ocilla, in order that instructions may be given to the district attorney for the arrest of the individuals named therein should they again be found within the jurisdiction of the United States. Perhaps the information which is given by Mr. Shufeldt may lead to the discovery of their accomplices in the United States.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

EDWARD JORDAN, Esq.,
Solicitor of the Treasury.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Welles.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 29, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for your information, a despatch (No. 117) received from the United States consul general at Havana, suggesting further legislation to prevent the abuse of our national flag in the slave trade.

It not unfrequently happens that our consuls, especially at Havana, report the arrival of an American vessel which they have good reason to believe is about to sail to the coast of Africa to purchase slaves. But there is no statute which requires an American consul in a foreign port to retain in his possession, and to that extent thwart these expeditions, the papers of vessels which he may so suspect. As the power is not given by law, the want of it cannot be supplied by departmental regulations. It may be deemed expedient, therefore, to suggest to Congress the propriety of additional legislation upon the subject. The naked right to detain the papers of vessels would be of little avail without the presence or aid of some naval force to carry such detention into practical effect. If the commander and crew of a vessel are bent on a piratical voyage, measures much stronger than this will be required to restrain them. But with the aid of a national force at hand, such vessel might, if the power be given by Congress, be seized by one of our war steamers and sent to the United States for such further proceedings as the law might authorize and require, so that the voyage might not only be frustrated, but the vessel condemned, and the crew and the officers punished as criminals.

In this view of the case, I beg leave to submit for your consideration, the

expediency of the Navy department uniting with this department in recommending to Congress such further legislation as may prevent the evil and abuse to which I have invited your considerate attention.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. Welles to Mr. Seward.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, January 3, 1863.

SIR: In the note dated the 29th ultimo, which I had the honor to receive from you, covering a despatch from the United States consul general at Havana, in reference to the prosperous condition of the slave trade with the island of Cuba, you submit for my consideration the expediency of this deparment uniting with the State Department in recommending such further legislation as may tend to prevent the abuse referred to.

The additional legislation which your communication suggests as necessary, or that would probably accomplish the object, is authority from Congress for the detention by a consul of the papers of a suspected vessel, and to carry such detention into practical effect, by the use of any national force that may be at hand in seizing the suspected vessel, and sending her to the United States for such further proceedings as the law might authorize and require, so that the voyage might not only be frustrated, but the crew and officers punished as criminals.

Would any legislation on the part of our government permit an armed public ship to seize a vessel in a foreign port without the consent of the authorities of that port? And is it probable that any government would permit a capture to be made within its jurisdiction?

I apprehend we should involve ourselves in difficulty were we to attempt to authorize seizures in foreign ports by any law of Congress.

The proposition is new to me, and these suggestions are made on the instant. It will give me pleasure to co-operate with you in any rightful measure for suppressing the infernal traffic.

Very respecfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Russell to Mr. Seward.

No. 14.] UNITED STATES CONSULATE AT TRINIDAD DE CUBA,
May 1, 1863.

SIR: It is my unpleasant duty to be compelled to report to you another arrival in this vicinity of a vessel with kidnapped Africans.

The facts, as I gather them from the most reliable sources, are substantially these: That a cargo of about 500 slaves was landed about a week since on some one of the keys, or sequestered spots that abound on this coast, and were hurriedly forced into the interior and deposited on a sugar estate.

It is currently spoken of through town that the governor has consented to take a bribe of $50,000 to permit the negroes to be landed and disposed of without his official interference to the contrary; but the commandant of a regiment of soldiers stationed here, having by some means obtained information of the arrival of the contrabands, assumed the responsibility, proceeded to the place of their concealment, and succeeded in arresting the whole number, and brought them into town. About one-half of the number, say 250, have been already sent to Havana, and the residue soon to follow, to be placed at the disposal of the captain general.

It is understood that the governor, by the prompt movement of his subordinate, will fail to get a dollar of his bribe, whilst it is very certain that he will be speedily removed from office.

But still this nefarious, horrid traffic in human flesh and blood is carried on by the connivance of the officials of the island, whilst I, painfully cognizant of the facts, have not the slightest means to check, expose, or prevent it. All that I can do is to report to you the facts as they come within my knowledge, and respectfully wait your further instructions or pleasure in the premises.

I am truly, with considerations of very high regard, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. RUSSELL,
United States Consul.

Hon. F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary of State, Washington City.

Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Russell.

No. 27.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 18, 1864.

SIR: Your despatch (No. 14) has been received and referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

The just sentiments which you express in regard to the slave traffic meet with the approval of this department.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

W. H. RUSSELL, Esq.,
United States Consul, Trinidad de Cuba.

Mr. Russell to Mr. Seward.

No. 21.] UNITED STATES CONSULATE AT TRINIDAD DE CUBA,
July 25, 1863.

SIR: In my despatch No. 14, and of date the 1st of May, 1863, I informed you that there had been landed near this city a cargo of kidnapped Africans, but that by a kind of providential interference they had been captured by the Spanish authorities of this place, after having reached a sugar estate in the interior, and had been sent to Havana to be disposed of by the captain general in conformity to the subsisting treaties of the civilized nations of the earth on that subject. But information has lately reached me to the effect that the courts or judicial tribunals of Havana have decided that as the negroes were landed and upon his estate, that the proprietor thereof was, to all intents and purposes,

their legal owner, and that no law or authority existed to question his right, or to inquire how or by what means he became possessed of said slaves, and that by virtue of said decision that those poor unfortunate beings would be returned to slavery.

I have been so much shocked by this anomalous decision—intended, as I think must strike every one, to evade the efforts of the most civilized nations of the globe to suppress this nefarious traffic in human flesh and blood—that I have felt it my duty to submit those facts to you for your calm reflection, and for any future orders that you may be inclined to give me on the subject.

* * * * * * * * * *

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. RUSSELL,
United States Consul.

Hon. F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary of State, Washington City.

Mr. Savage to Mr. Seward.

No. 107.] UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL,
Havana, November 20, 1863.

SIR: Over one thousand African negroes were brought to this city a few days since. It is reported that they were landed from a steamship (whose name and nationality are unknown) in the neighborhood of Cardenas, or Sagua. Very prominent and wealthy persons are said to be implicated in this business.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

THOMAS SAVAGE,
Vice-Consul General.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington.

The steamer was not captured. It is believed that she went to Nassau after landing the negroes.

T. S.

Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Savage.

No. 53.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 28, 1863.

SIR: Your despatches, from No. 106 to No. 107, have been received. The proclamation accompanying your No. 106 has been promulgated. Your No. 107 has been transmitted to the Secretary of the Navy; a copy has also been communicated to Lord Lyons.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

T. SAVAGE, Esq.,
Vice-Consul General of the United States, Havana.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Welles.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 28, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch (No. 107) received from the United States vice-consul general at Havana in relation to the landing of a large number of negroes from Africa.

I will thank you to return the despatch.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. Savage to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

No. 110.] CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Havana, December 5, 1863.

SIR: I have reliable information that 2,400 African negroes were landed on or about last Tuesday, in the place called Ensenada de Cochinos, jurisdiction of Cienfuegos, from two steamers which sailed from Cadiz, Spain. Don Julian Zulueta, a prominent planter, member of the Havana city council, and a well-known slave trader, is believed to be the owner of the expedition. A Mr. Apodaca, who purchased about 100 of the negroes, is now confined in one of the forts here, and the negroes have been seized.

I have the honor to be, sir, with much respect, your obedient servant,

THOS. SAVAGE,
Vice-Consul General.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington.

Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Savage.

No. 67.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 5, 1864.

SIR: Your despatches, from Nos. 116 to 118, both inclusive, have been received. Referring to your despatch No. 110, relating to the landing of certain negroes from Africa, I have now to transmit herewith a copy of a note from Lord Lyons, from which you will perceive that the government of Great Britain desires further information in regard to the name of the vessel and the parties implicated in her proceedings. You will have the goodness, therefore, to endeavor to obtain such further information as you can, and communicate it to this department

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD.
Assistant Secretary

THOMAS SAVAGE, Esq.,
United States Vice-Consul General, Havana

Mr. Savage to Mr. F. W. Seward.

No. 127.] UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL,
Havana, March 5, 1864.

SIR: In reply to your despatch of the 5th ultimo, accompanying a copy of a note from Lord Lyons of the preceding date, I have to state that, notwithstanding the most diligent inquiries among my friends, I have been unable to ascertain the name of the steamer that brought the large lot of African negroes (upwards of a thousand) captured by the Spanish authorities. These negroes were landed in the district of Colon, on the south side of this island. The steamer had been originally English, came from England to Cadiz, where she was put under Spanish colors, fitted out for the slave trade, and cleared ostensibly for a lawful voyage to Fernando Po, a Spanish island on the coast of Africa.

The negroes were captured on shore by the lieutenant governor of the district, and I am confidentially informed that the steamer proceeded again to Africa for another load of the same kind, the necessary stores having been placed on board immediately on the discharge of her cargo. It is said that Don Julian Zulueta, Don Salvador Sania, Marquis of Marianao, the Brigadier Garcia Munoz, and other prominent persons, amongst whom General Concha is mentioned, were interested in that expedition.

Several slave expeditions have been landed for the same parties, but two besides the above have been captured, one of about six hundred negroes and the other of about two hundred, most of the cargo of the latter having been landed, and the vessel conveying them has the appearance of being English built. Don José Carreras, a partner of Mr. S. Sania, has been for some time past in confinement, charged with being implicated in these violations of law. Should any further trustworthy information reach me, I will not fail to transmit it at the earliest opportunity.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

THOMAS SAVAGE,
Vice-Consul General.

Hon. F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Savage.

No. 72.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 11, 1864.

SIR: Your despatch (No. 127,) has been received, and acopy sent to Lord Lyons, her Britannic Majesty's minister, for his information in regard to the landing of Africans in Cuba.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

THOMAS SAVAGE, Esq.,
Vice-Consul General of the United States, Havana.

Mr. Savage to Mr. Seward.

No. 149.] UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL,
Havana, May 14, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to lay before you the affidavits of John McCarthy, John McGovern, and Charles Richau, who formed part of the crew of the brig Huntress, under American colors, who landed a cargo of Africans about twelve or fourteen days ago at one of the keys of this island, some thirty-six miles from the main land at Santa Cruz, south side. The negroes were captured by a Spanish war steamer—the brig had been destroyed by fire. John McCarthy will go by the steamer Havana to New York, under a promise made to him that he will be secure from punishment. The other two men are lying very sick in the hospital. The brig Huntress appeared as the property of the master, William Duncan, of New York, but was largely encumbered with debts to an Italian residing here by the name of José Petusio, who has lost all the money invested in her. George C. Briggs, of New Bedford, Massachusetts, had a great deal to do with the brig while she was in New York in September, 1861, which vessel went from this port, under Mexican colors, to the coast of Africa for slaves. It would not surprise me if Briggs was found to be in some measure connected with the object of the Huntress's voyage. His conduct in the Culloma case would lead one to believe that he would have no scruples to engage in such business.—(See my despatch No. 55, 6th of September, 1861.)

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

THOMAS SAVAGE,
Vice-Consul General.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Havana, Cuba.

John McCarthy, of the city of New York, mariner, aged thirty years, being duly sworn, says: I was shipped in Matanzas on the 12th day of January, 1862, upon the American brig Huntress, William Duncan, master, as a seaman before the mast, the vessel belonged to the port of New York. On the following day I sailed in said vessel for New York. I remained on the vessel some time in New York, and was subsequently paid off. I was on shore about three weeks and reshipped on said brig Huntress as second mate. When we commenced to put the deck load on her she began to leak, and when we sailed she made about four feet of water. She continued to make water freely all the voyage from New York to Cadiz, Spain; she was still under the command of Captain Duncan. On the voyage we had about two days of bad weather, and lost the main topmast and main topgallantmast, and threw more than half the deck load overboard. On arriving at Cadiz, discharged the cargo, and the vessel was repaired. The master and all hands remained attached to the vessel over eight months in the port of Cadiz, and until about three months before she was sold, when three of the men were discharged. The chief mate, Peter Peterson, ran away from the vessel some time before she was sold; then we had to go on shore, Captain Duncan not having received money to pay for the repairs and law fees incurred in consequence of a suit commenced against the vessel by her creditors there. The brig was sold by order of the court at auction. I was on shore about four months, and repeatedly called on Mr. Eggleston, the American consul, to send me to the United States, which he never did. He wished to ship me on an English vessel going to Calcutta, which I refused to do.

Captain Duncan wished to come to Havana, but no facility was afforded him by the consul, though myself and two others offered to lend him the money out of our wages to pay his passage, his object being to come to Havana to procure money to pay the liability of the vessel. The brig was purchased by Mr. Thomes Haynes, an Englishman, the carpenter who had done the carpentering upon her, and who assumed all the debts of the vessel in Cadiz. Some two months after the sale, the following occurrences took place: I was called to the American consulate, and Mr. Eggleston, the consul, proposed to me to go as master of the Huntress for a voyage in her, not to exceed five or six months, from a northern port of Spain, with passengers, to the river La Plata. I replied I was willing to go on the Huntress as on any other vessel, but was not competent to go as master because I could not write and knew nothing of navigation. He said that was no serious objection, and instructed me during several days in writing my name. I was made to sign two documents, the purport of which I knew not. Mr. Eggleston said that if I was successful in the voyage, and landed the passengers, I would receive a present of a couple of thousand dollars besides my regular wages—the same offer was made me by Mr. Haynes, the owner. I accepted the offer, and went on board and found the brig loaded. As I subsequently found out, Don Manuel Lluret, was the principal owner of the brig and cargo. She was cleared as an American vessel, under American colors, in my name, although I never saw the papers. If I had seen them I could not have read them. All the money I received in advance in Cadiz was nineteen dollars. The real captain of the vessel was a Portuguese of the name of Don Bito. We went to sea, I expecting we were going to the river Plata, and did not discover my mistake until we arrived at the mouth of the river Congo, at a place called the Devil's Point, on the coast of Africa. The crew consisted of eight men before the mast, all of whom, excepting John McGovern and Charles Richau, were Spaniards or Portuguese, as were also the mate, boatswain, cook, carpenter, and cabin boy. We arrived at the point in the night time, and on the following morning, between ten and eleven o'clock, five or six lighters came alongside our brig loaded with African negroes, all of whom were transferred to our vessel. There were 350 females and 400 males. Immediately that all the negroes were on board we put to sea, and after a passage of about eighty-five days arrived at one of the keys, some twelve leagues from the main land, at Santa Cruz, south side of Cuba, eight or nine days ago. The negroes were landed and remained on the key about six days, until the Gaudalquiver, a Spanish steamer of war, came and captured them and ourselves. We were landed by the steamer at Batabano three days ago. During our long voyage from the coast of Africa we lost about 250 negroes by death, who were thrown overboard. The voyage was full of hardships and suffering, and there was a great scarcity of water. I had nothing to do with the management of the vessel to or from Africa, and have received no other compensation than the nineteen dollars received on shipping. There was a passenger on board from Africa who owned six negroes, whose name was Don José Perera or Pereda, and is the same man who committed suicide, the night before last, in the Hotel St. Louis, in this city. I forgot to mention before that Captain Duncan died in Cadiz.

his
JOHN + McCARTHY.
mark.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this twelfth day of May, 1864.

THOMAS SAVAGE,
United States Vice-Consul General, Havana.

John McGovern and Charles Richau, being duly sworn, doth depose and say that they have had read to them the foregoing affidavit of John McCarthy, and know the contents thereof. That they were sailors before the mast on the said brig Huntress during the period mentioned in the said affidavit, and that the same is true, to their own knowledge, except as to interviews had by said McCarthy with parties in Cadiz.

JOHN McGOVERN.
CHARLES RICHAU.

Sworn to before me this twelfth day of May, 1864.

THOMAS SAVAGE,
United States Vice-Consul General, Havana.

Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Savage.

No. 90.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 27, 1864.

SIR: Your despatches Nos. 148 and 149 have been received.

The information which you have communicated in your No. 149, in regard to the landing of Africans from the brig Huntress, has been communicated to the marshals of the United States for the districts of New York and Massachusetts.

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I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

THOMAS SAVAGE, Esq.,
Vice-Consul General of the United States, Havana.

Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Murray.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 27, 1864.

SIR: I transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of consular despatch No. 149, and its enclosures, received from Havana, in regard to the last voyage of the slave brig Huntress, recently destroyed by fire on the south side of Cuba.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

R. MURRAY, Esq.,
United States Marshal, New York.

Mr. Riddle to Mr. Seward.

WASHINGTON, *May* 31, 1864.

SIR: You requested me to reduce to writing and address to you the substance of what I said in a recent conversation upon the foreign slave trade in Cuba.

My information upon that subject was gleaned by careful inquiry and such observations as I was enabled to make during a recent stay of three or four months on the island. A stranger is startled by the great number of native-born Africans whom he sees in every part of Cuba—a very large per-centage. He readily distinguishes them by their tatooed faces, a custom never practiced among the negroes of Cuba. So on their holidays one constantly sees the slaves engaged in festive rites, singing their native songs, and engaged in their barbaric dances and orgies. Of course, all of these were imported, and show to that extent the thrift of the trade. More recently the activity of the Spanish government, under the present efficient captain general, in the suppression of this traffic, has induced the traders to import only children, who do not receive these distinguishing marks; and three months ago a number of fine-looking young negro boys could be seen in Havana, recently taken from a captured slaver.

Cuba is divided into a large number of departments, as one of our States is into counties. Each department has its own separate governor, autocratic in his own "jurisdiction," with a captain general at the head. Formerly many of these governors, from the captain general through, were partners in the slave trade, afforded facilities for landing, and protected the property in the hands of the purchasers for a share in the awfully enormous profits. Among the infamous was the captain general, whose name is borne by the celebrated theatre at Havana—"Tacon"—and, in a smaller way, the governor of Matanzas, whose name also illustrates the beautiful theatre of that city—"Estaban." Indeed, popular odium attaches the infamy of complicity with this crime to more than one captain general and governor since the time of Tacon and Estaban.

The present captain general of Cuba—Dolce—is probably one of the most vigorous and enlightened statesmen that has ever governed Cuba, and he has earnestly and zealously devoted himself to the suppression of this traffic; and yet such is the extent of the sea-coast, and such is the cupidity of many of his subordinates, that it is probably not an overestimate to assert that within the last twelve months, ending with January of this year, a cargo of "frescos" for each month was landed in Cuba. During that period a slave crew was landed in the neighborhood of Matanzas, and the debris of the cargo was abandoned on the beach when they were landed, and were gathered up and taken to the city, the most revolting mass of suffering humanity that ever appalled the gaze of civilized men.

You are familiar with the history of the two steamers Rafael and Conqueror. When they first arrived in Cuba it was currently reported, and believed by many, that they were constructed to aid in the slave trade, and were to be employed to meet the slavers off the coast and land their cargoes. So common was the traffic that this seemed probable.

The Spanish laws of Cuba, compared with those of the slave States of America, are wise and humane in reference to slaves, and to the honor of the Spanish courts be it said that they see to it that these laws are liberally enforced in favor of the slaves. Many interesting cases were reported to me fully warranting this assertion. And the better to secure to the slaves the benefit of these legal provisions, there is a sort of solicitor general for them in each department, whose duty it is to see that their rights are protected. As you are aware, the laws of Cuba are not only made, but enforced, wholly by Spaniards. A Cuban is seldom or never admitted to any branch of the public service, civil, military, or naval. The captured or rescued slaves, the "emancipados," are apprenticed for a term of years. Formerly this resulted in their sinking into the mass of the slaves; their identity was lost, and their hope of freedom very feeble. Now a careful registry of them is made and kept, and the present government looks closely to their well-being.

It is generally understood in Cuba that the present captain general is in favor of an early emancipation of all the slaves, and it is said that he is now shaping

the administrative policy of the island to that end; and, so far as I could discover, there is a general expectation that ere many years slavery will be abolished in Cuba.

Very respectfully,

A. G. RIDDLE,
Late United States Consul, Matanzas.

Hon. F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary of State.

Mr. Russell to Mr. Seward.

No. 17.] U. S. CONSULATE AT TRINIDAD DE CUBA,
June 13, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt by the last mail of two public documents from you.

The first circular, No. 35, in reference to a change in our revenue law, and the second, some additional articles to a treaty with her Britannic Majesty in reference to the suppression of the African slave trade, which shall receive my careful attention.

I am, very truly, with high respect, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. RUSSELL,
United States Consul.

Hon. F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary of State, Washington.

Mr. Wallace to Mr. Seward.

U. S. CONSULATE AT SANTIAGO DE CUBA,
June 20, 1864.

SIR: My consular district, besides the city of Santiago de Cuba, contains the ports of entry of Santa Cruz, Manzanillo, Guantanamo, and Baracoa. In accordance with my consular instructions, whenever piracy, mutiny, or any other offence against the laws of the United States shall have been committed on board of any vessel of the United States coming into my consular district, or whenever a mariner shall have deserted his ship, or any other American citizen charged with the commission of an offence against the laws of the United States happens to come within my consular jurisdiction, it is the duty of the consular officer, after taking the deposition necessary to establish the fact, to apply to the local authorities for the means of securing the offenders while they remain in port, and provide for the means of sending them without delay to the United States for trial. In such case an official note, with the seal of the United States consulate of Santiago de Cuba and signed by the consular officer, is sent to the captain of the port, requesting him to issue his warrants and arrest and imprison the persons therein named for offences committed on board the vessel, or charged with the commission of a criminal offence against the laws of the United States. On receiving the request he immediately causes the arrest and imprisonment of the persons named, and sends an official note of the arrest and imprisonment of the persons named, who are made subject to the order of the consular officer. Similar proceedings have always been taken in all cases of desertion, mutiny, and disobedience on the part of seamen. All these acts are promptly and cheerfully performed by the local authorities without any treaty stipulations having

been made by the Spanish government with that of the United States; the officials only charging their regular and usual fees for their services to the consular officer, and the support in prison of the offenders.

With great respect, sir, your obedient servant,

E. F. WALLACE,
United States Consul, Santiago de Cuba.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

SIR: Since our despatch, marked No. 2, of July 20, 1863, we have the honor further to report, that we have given attention to the customs, manners, and usages of the various native tribes or nations inhabiting the country, and as far as time and opportunity would permit, have inquired into the practices and methods pursued by them and the foreign slave traders to elude success fully the cruisers, and get safely away with their living cargoes, in spite of the watchful vigilance of the squadrons on the coast.

It is affirmed that the slave trade is now carried on by Spaniards under the French flag, evasion being comparatively easy, on account of the absence of the French squadron engaged on other duties.

The abolition of slavery in the Dutch West India islands by William the Third, King of the Netherlands, &c., on the 1st of July, 1863, together with the decided action of our own government on the subject, will necessarily limit the demand for slaves on the African coast. The acceptance of the resignation of the O'Donnell ministry by the Queen of Spain, and the appointment of General Dolce as captain general of Cuba—said to be opposed to slavery in that island—may have the effect, also, of measurably withdrawing that great consumer from the slave market.

Of the ninety-five thousand two hundred and six registered Africans who have been liberated or recaptured (since the organization of a "mixed court") and taken to Sierra Leone, are found individuals of many tribes and nations, not only from along the coast, but also from the interior of the country.

It is important to note, that with the exception of the "*Kroo*" people, every nation inhabiting both interior and the coast line are slaveholders and slave-dealers; that among themselves slaves form the best, most stable and principal currency; that with a slave or slaves every species of property and merchandise may be obtained most readily, and, like gold and silver with us, the value of a slave is universally known, and esteemed as the most stable and least fluctuating in value, among all the nationalities yet heard from; consequently, so long as foreign nations continue to employ slave labor and send ships to the coast for them, so long as the various nations inhabiting Africa (especially the coast) continue to prize slaves as their best, most reliable and universally recognized mediums of value and exchange, just so long will cruel wars be waged among the native tribes, and the foreign slave trade exist and be carried on in spite of all that civilized nations have yet done to suppress it; that is to say, the effectual remedy for this great evil—this curse of nations—has not yet been applied.

The millions that have been expended annually by the United States and Great Britain for the suppression of the slave trade in Africa has resulted in a few captures, and been the cause of infusing greater vigilance, ingenuity, and cunning among those engaged in the traffic; the increased hazard of the trade only tending to increase the price of slaves abroad and decrease it on the coast.

For the purpose of the more effectual prevention of the slave trade, it is therefore respectfully submitted:

1. That commissioners be appointed on the part of the United States, and

such other nations as may join therein, to visit and treat with the various tribes or nations along the coast, and afterwards those of the interior. Such treaties to stipulate that all prisoners of war shall be treated in all respects as such prisoners now are by civilized nations, and that they are not to be sold, or treated, or retained as slaves, or sacrificed on their fetish altars.

2. To establish by treaty the abolition of the practice of selling slaves to be taken out of the country; the ordeal of drinking sassa water or capital punishment for witchcraft or other imaginary crimes, or for slight offences; and, finally, all human sacrifices, for whatsoever cause, saving murder.

On the part of the various nations entering into such treaties, it should be agreed, and the commissioners should have the power to execute the following things, namely:

1. To open trade with and protect, fully and surely, each tribe treating with them, against the hostile tribes or nations attacking them.

2. They should agree to introduce all labor-saving, useful, and available machinery, at certain convenient places on the coast or on the banks of rivers, where a certain number of youth (furnished by the native countries in the treaty) may be instructed in the uses of said implements; the breaking and driving of oxen and other draught animals, holding the plough, and the management of sowing, reaping, planting, threshing, and other machines used in improved cultivation. They should also be furnished with competent practical men to teach the trades essential to civilization, such as carpenters, joiners, blacksmiths, machinists, weavers, &c.

All these agricultural and artisan practical teachers should be liberally compensated by the civilized governments in treaty, and by them furnished with all necessary supplies for the period of two or more years; the repayment of all of which by the native tribes should be carefully provided for in the treaty thus made.

There is no climate or country where agricultural labor-saving machines can be employed better, pay a larger dividend, or yield a quicker return, than that of Africa. And with the rise of agricultural employments in this great country, all other mechanical employments will be required from necessity, and the inhabitants will thus learn, surely, the arts of civil life, supplying all their wants, and retaining a surplus sufficient for educational purposes, clothing, and the like.

The bountiful hand of nature is displayed in the wonderful luxuriance of vegetation, and Africa may be said to be *nature's hot-house*. Everything grows with little care or labor, and yet this little is not vouchsafed by the inhabitants, who are ignorant of all modes of tilling the soil, except the use of the short-handled hoe, after pulling up the grass with the naked hands. The great labor of cultivating by means of the hoe and hands barely is enough to dishearten the most resolute and industrious. Great efforts and close application by these means may, and occasionally do, succeed in raising an amount of "cassada" for the subsistence of a household. Few pursue so unpromising a task, and, succumbing to the enervating influence of the climate, become idle and vicious. The undersigned are not aware of the existence of a draught animal of any kind in the whole colony, if an exception be made of the single horse owned by the governor. No plough exists in the country.

There are diminutive buggies used by some of the leading citizens, who are drawn in them by the natives.

The tribes or nations inhabiting the country adjoining this colony derive little knowledge or benefit from intercourse with the captured slaves of the colony, in agriculture or of the arts of civil life; for, in these respects, the colony is in no respect in advance of the inhabitants of the interior, or "Bush," as it is called in the local vernacular.

To induce men to abandon the allurements of indolence and savage life, with its cruel and predatory wars and disgusting rites, and adopt civilization in its

place, the best method is to instruct them how easily they may supply their physical wants, and accumulate a surplus. This done, they are gradually, but certainly, won to the cares of civil life, and their children acquire a love of mechanics, philosophy, and the social state.

All the kings and chief men of the native tribes that have been seen by the undersigned, most readily and eagerly desire to have the plough and other labor-saving machines introduced among them. To comply with desires so honorable, and so generally expressed by the natives, and take an early advantage of the same, is believed to be the most certain, effective, and *economical* method of annihilating the foreign slave trade.

We have just learned that the slave pens or "barracoons" along the coast are now well filled with slaves, but no vessel seems to dare an approach.

The native kings who supply these "barracoons" ready for markets that offer, and the "barracoons" themselves, cannot be legally disturbed, or the slaves released, for lack of all treaty stipulations; and it is firmly believed that the aforementioned commission might effect such treaties as would break up such proceeding in future.

We have the honor, Mr. Secretary of State, to be, with great respect, your very humble and obedient servants,

CHAS. V. DYER, *Judge*,
TIMOTHY R. HIBBARD, *Arbitrator*,
Mixed Court under Treaty of April 7, 1863.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State for the United States of America,
Washington, D. C.

Dated at the chambers of the anglo-American mixed court at Freetown, in the colony of Sierra Leone, West Africa, the 21st day of February, A. D. 1864.

Mr. F. W. Seward to Messrs. Dyer and Hibbard.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 12, 1864.

GENTLEMEN: Your communication of the 21st of February last, in relation to the African slave trade, has been received, and I have to inform you, in reply, that a copy of it will be submitted to the British government for its consideration.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Acting Secretary.

CHARLES V. DYER, Esq., *Judge*,
TIMOTHY R. HIBBARD, Esq., *Arbitrator*,
of the Mixed Court, Sierra Leone.

Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Adams.

No. 910.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 12, 1864.

SIR: I enclose to you a copy of a communication of the 21st of February last, received at this department from the members of the anglo-American mixed court at Freetown, West Africa, respecting the prevalence of the slave trade in

that country. You will be pleased to cause a copy of it to be sent to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for the consideration of the British government.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Acting Secretary.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

[The paper above referred to will be found in its place in this series according to date.]

Mr. Adams to Mr. Seward.

No. 686.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
London, May 12, 1864.

SIR: Lord Russell has answered my note of the 2d instant, referred to in my despatch of last week, No. 678, by two successive replies, which indicate an extraordinary degree of interest in the subject. Copies of these three papers are now transmitted.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Adams to Earl Russell.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
London, May 2, 1864.

MY LORD: I have been directed to lay before you, for the information of her Majesty's government, a copy of a communication made by the members of the mixed commission at Freetown, West Africa, to the Secretary of State at Washington, respecting the prevalence of the slave trade in that country.

I pray your lordship to accept the assurances of the highest consideration with which I have the honor to be, my lord, your most obedient servant,

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

The Right Hon. EARL RUSSELL, *&c., &c., &c.*

Earl Russell to Mr. Adams.

FOREIGN OFFICE, *May* 9, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 2d instant, enclosing a copy of the report of the American commissioners of the mixed commission court at Sierra Leone, upon the slave trade on the west coast of Africa, and I have to request that you will convey to the government of the United States the thanks of her Majesty's government for this communication.

I have the honor to be, with the highest consideration, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

RUSSELL.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Earl Russell to Mr. Adams.

FOREIGN OFFICE, *May* 11, 1864.

SIR: Now that the governments of Great Britain and the United States are happily agreed in their determination to use every legitimate effort to put down the slave trade, I wish you would suggest to Mr. Seward that her Majesty's government think it would be very useful if the two governments would mutually communicate to each other every incident of importance which may occur, and every measure that may seem to either of the two governments to tend to the suppression of this detestable traffic.

I have read with great interest the report of the United States commissioner and judge at Sierra Leone, and shall be happy to consider how the measures therein pointed out can best be carried into effect.

I have the honor to be, with the highest consideration, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

RUSSELL.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, Esq., *&c.*, *&c.*, *&c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Adams.

No. 969.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 30, 1864.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 12th instant, No. 686, aud its accompaniments, relative to the suppression of the African slave trade. I cordially assent to the proposition of Earl Russell therein mentioned.

I give you herewith a copy of the papers respecting the Arguelles case.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, Esq., *&c.*, *&c.*, *&c.*

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